

MANY SIDED, MILITANT JOHN ARBUCKLE PASSES.

Fought Sugar Trust Successfully—Destroyed Towing Monopoly—Revolutionized Wrecking Methods

John Arbuckle was telling one day of going to see Henry O. Havemeyer, who once made the mistake of trying to put Mr. Arbuckle out of the sugar business. He said:

"As I entered and found Mr. Havemeyer playing the violin in his library I asked to be allowed to sit in an alcove so as not to disturb him. His library was filled with wonderful pictures that were worth many thousands of dollars. When Mr. Havemeyer had finished playing I approached him and said, 'Mr. Havemeyer, you can't be such a bad man as people say you are, you who love pictures and play so beautifully.' Mr. Havemeyer smiled, but made no reply."

That was characteristic of more than Mr. Arbuckle's simplicity of address. He was always looking for something good in all sorts of people and he was always willing to give the men and women he met the benefit of the doubt and to believe that there must be something good in them. He had many ways of getting at and bringing out the better side of the unfortunate ones. His private charities of which the world never heard were very large and not at all confined to the "deserving."

And so when word went round last Wednesday that John Arbuckle was dead there were hundreds of men and women who, with a sense of personal loss, thought only of the man who had given them the chance to keep on the right side of the boundary line of self-respect, forgetting the great merchant. Yet it was the same John Arbuckle who revolutionized the sugar business, fought a draw with the trust, broke the towing monopoly on the Hudson, devised and executed daring schemes for raising sunken wrecks and in doing it all built up a great fortune.

He was a fighter whose fights with monopolies of one kind and another his Scotch cannyness enabled him to turn into financial victories. So though he was always an enemy of every form of trust nobody ever suggested running him on the Socialist ticket. It was always the other fellow who got hurt and there was usually a profit to show after the battle was over. At the time of his death he was planning a campaign for the abolition or reduction of the tariff on sugar. He said that sugar was made expensive just to protect the beet sugar interests and that he meant to see the price come down to where it wouldn't be a luxury for the poor man.

To visit Mr. Arbuckle's office in the unpretentious brick building at Old Slip and Water street was like going back a half century in New York mercantile life. The place had neither the "smartness" nor the sumptuousness of furnishing of the typical "big man's" office of to-day. Very likely it was Mr. Arbuckle himself who met you as you entered, inquired your business and invited you to enter. In the talk that followed he was simplicity and directness itself. If it was summer time Mr. Arbuckle had his coat off and his waistcoat unbuttoned, or if the day was chill he was dressed not overcarefully in a well worn black overcoat with a black string tie and low old fashioned collar that suggested the country parson. He was still a powerful man at 73, although the long working days of his busy life had left him a little stooped, so that he did not look his full height. He wore a full beard, and his features were small, his face weather beaten and his hair, like his beard, was turning white. He had very bright eyes that seemed to take in things at a glance, but there was no suggestion of the man of force and action in the look of almost apologetic inquiry with which he looked out upon the world.

Mr. Arbuckle's private office was hung with pictures of his wrecking tugs at work, his "floating hotel" for working girls and his country home. It was of these that he delighted to talk. If his audience pleased him he would go enthusiastically over his battles with the sea while reclaiming wrecks which everybody else had abandoned, or his plans for a farm colony for working men and women. But if you spoke of business he very likely referred you to his nephew and partner, William A. Jamison, saying: "You'll have to talk to Mr. Jamison about that. He has entire charge." It wasn't that he wasn't interested, but that he was a great organizer who, except in the way of inspection or in guiding the destiny of one of his personal hobbies, left details to others.

That was the man. The story of his business success is the old one of pluck and never failing energy. There was, too, an underlying vein of rugged honesty that won a measure of respect that not even the scandal resulting from the sugar frauds was able to hurt. Most people believed him when he said at that time:

"My skirts are clear in this matter, but you can understand that the ramifications are very great and that others who are not so fortunate are involved."

He was born in Pittsburgh in 1839, his parents having come from Scotland but shortly before. He was educated in the public schools, attending Washington and Jefferson college for a time. He used to say that the only important dates in his life were when he was born, when he was married and when he died. With his brother Charles, who died in 1891, he went into business in Pittsburgh as a wholesale grocer. It was while he was in business in Pittsburgh that he married Mary Alice Kerr. Mrs. Arbuckle died in 1907. They had no children.

Mr. Arbuckle and his brother moved to Brooklyn in 1871 and started a coffee roasting plant. They won quick success and Mr. Arbuckle before long was extending his activities into other fields—the mercantile trade, the terminal warehouse business, the wrecking and shipping business and sugar. And in all he worked alone in the sense that he was never associated with men in the financial world outside his own office. He ranked with the chiefs of the financial world, but his name was associated with few boards of directors and he was known as a man who fought alone and for his own hand.

It was his venture into the sugar trade that brought to Mr. Arbuckle the big fight of his business career. He had invented a machine that put up coffee in neat two pound packages and he was the first one to begin on a large scale the "package goods" plan in retail trade. It was a big success and Mr. Arbuckle, deciding that there was money in sugar sold in the same way, approached the late

Henry O. Havemeyer, then head of what is now the American Sugar Refining Company, with his scheme. Havemeyer agreed to sell Mr. Arbuckle the sugar at a fixed price and Mr. Arbuckle went ahead adding package sugar to his already successful coffee trade. The plan proved immensely profitable.

Then came the fight. The Havemeyer people have always said that the Arbuckles began it by demanding a lower price on their sugar, while the Arbuckle side of the story was that Havemeyer wanted the trade for himself and refused to sell sugar at a price from which the Arbuckle interest could make a profit. At any rate there was a sudden severing of relations and Mr. Arbuckle started in to fight the sugar trust. That was early in 1893 and that year Mr. Arbuckle had completed the building of a giant refining plant in Brooklyn. In the war of competition that followed Mr. Arbuckle cut the wholesale price of refined sugar to one-half cent a pound above the cost of crude sugar. He secured the services of some of the best sugar men in the country and invaded hitherto undisputed territory of the trust with a vigor that caused Havemeyer to seek a method of retaliation. The trust went into the coffee business and everybody looked for Mr. Arbuckle's downfall, but Havemeyer had had enough, and in 1901 he cried quits and ended the fight by signing an agreement which recognized Mr. Arbuckle's "right" to refine 5,000 barrels of sugar a day.

The truce between the big sugar refiners led to a report that the trust had bought an interest in Mr. Arbuckle's business. He always denied this. He said that Mr. Havemeyer tried very hard while the fight was on to buy a 51 per cent. interest in Arbuckle Bros. "I told him," said Mr. Arbuckle, "that never so long as I lived should he have a dollar's interest."

One of Mr. Arbuckle's hobbies played an amusing part in his fight with the

was discovered Mr. Arbuckle and William A. Jamison at once offered to pay the entire sum, \$695,573.19, over to the Government. The settlement was accepted in full payment of all civil claims. When the firm of Arbuckle Bros. went into the sugar refining business there were connected with it besides Mr. Arbuckle and Mr. Jamison James N. Jarvis and William V. R. Smith. The latter two withdrew in 1900, but the settlement was made on behalf of all four men.

Mr. Arbuckle's next business battle was fought in the "tugboat war." He had built some big warehouses and piers along the Brooklyn waterfront and the report spread that Mr. Arbuckle, who had now acquired the reputation of a "trust buster," had a campaign on foot. But it turned out that the stores and piers were to be used only in the business built up by the fleet that Mr. Arbuckle had engaged in the coffee and sugar trade and in the wrecking business. But Mr. Arbuckle's fleet included many barges and tugboats, and he wasn't the man to let them lie idle. He was looking about for a way to turn an extra penny with his tugs when his attention was attracted by the regular summer "tugboat war" on the Hudson between what the rivermen called the "tugboat trust" and the independents. The fees of the "trust" ran as high as \$30 a boat, which made a fine bit of profit considering that a tug usually picked up a string of five or six barges and canalboats each way going and coming from Albany. Mr. Arbuckle jumped in. He cut the price under the lowest ever known on the river and the small canalboat owners made

him their patron saint. An Erie skipper, so the tale that Mr. Arbuckle used to smile over runs, came to his wife with the news that "John Arbuckle's bucking the tugboat trust." Said she: "Well, I warn. If they keeps on they'll be giving us trading stamps next."

During the fight the price of a tow once dropped to \$5, and it was said that the "trust," in order to hold business, went so far as to offer to pay a skipper for the privilege of towing him up the river.

It wasn't long before Mr. Arbuckle took his boats out of the river trade for use in his increasing ocean towing and wrecking business, but towing prices on the Hudson never went back to their

another monopoly that controlled the business on the Atlantic coast from Halifax to Galveston. Others had tried to break in and had failed, but Mr. Arbuckle knew a way to win. He took the jobs that the other fellow had given up as impossible. He believed that methods of raising sunken ships were antiquated, and he set his inventive genius to work to find new and better ways of doing it. When his friends asked why he was embarking on such risky ventures he replied that there was something stimulating about dragging an honest penny out of a conflict with the sea.

"I like the sea," he said. "For one thing it helped to bring back my health once, and then of course there's a possible

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meals. The Health Department officials think that there is very little bad food sold in the sections of the city where fair prices are obtained by the dealers. No record has been kept of the value of the food stuffs condemned and destroyed, but it may be conjectured that at the prevailing prices for all kinds of foodstuffs 13,121,009 pounds represents a sum not to be scorned even by the wealthy.

In the appended table is shown the number of inspections made during 1911, the places where bad food was discovered and the amount in pounds of the various foodstuffs condemned.

In regard to the problem of food inspection generally with only thirty inspectors to do the work, Health Commissioner Lederle says:

"The Department of Health has been struggling with a staff of food inspectors which at the present time numbers only thirty men to deal with the problem of protecting the food supply of a city which was rapidly approaching and has now attained a population of 5,000,000. It is really surprising what results have

been accomplished in face of this very great discrepancy, but it goes without saying that with this small force the department has been able to undertake only a limited inspection of certain important channels of entry and not the thorough supervision of the local manufacture and sale of all food which should be exercised by the city."

"Request was made in the estimates for 1912 for the addition of 182 inspectors to the present force at an aggregate annual cost of about \$240,000, which would bring the total figure for the division of food inspection up to nearly \$300,000. This extension would provide facilities for the routine inspection of 21,099 retail establishments and 5,384 wholesale establishments. Instead of infrequent special investigations and raids, as at present, it would be possible to undertake the supervision of retail establishments, including bakeries, butcher shops, confectionery and grocery stores and a great variety of wholesale establishments, including those for bakers' and butchers' supplies, butter, cheese, eggs, canned goods, cereals, chewing gum, chocolate and cocoa, cider and vinegar, coffee, fruit, ice cream and cone manufacturers, table and mineral waters, wholesale and retail drugs and many other varieties of provisions as well as poultry slaughterhouses and cold storage plants."

"I strongly feel that the Department of Health has a moral right, after bringing its present staff of food inspectors up to the highest possible degree of efficiency (which I believe has now been done), to decline further responsibility in a direct ratio to the lack of an adequate number of inspectors."

Destructive Pennsylvania Deer.

Williamsport correspondence North American.

A traveller along the Sugar Camp road the other day saw three deer, a buck and two does, standing at the very edge of the road near a watering trough. They appeared to be a little concerned as cattle, and made no sign of fright until the driver cracked his whip at them. Then they took to the tall timber.

Just a few days before that Henry Dill, near Trout Run, saw a drove of fourteen deer along the road not two miles from the farms. It is in that region that last year several farmers had their wheat crop ruined by droves of deer jumping fences and browsing on the tender growth. There is a strong sentiment among the farmers, who are thus put to loss by these animals, that if they would kill them while foraging expeditions on their lands the law could not harm them. If the deer try their thievish out this spring there is liable to be just such cases put up to the State Game authorities.

former prohibitive rate, and the little canals are still profanely picturesque in the praise of John Arbuckle.

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chance of making an honest penny at it. There is a stimulus about the ocean that you can't get anywhere else. It helps your strength and it softens your disposition. You're picking up some of

who had purchased the outfit of the North America Wrecking Company, conceived the plan of a deep sea-going life saving service. His idea was to keep wrecking tugs always ready at points along the

market. This does happen, though, in cases where Uncle Sam has ordered a contract supply for his soldiers and sailors and the Federal inspectors reject it as not up to specifications. Retail dealers in the poorer sections of the city make a point of watching such condemnations and they go in and buy at a greatly reduced rate. Many of them undoubtedly get this stuff into their customers' hands, but an effort is made by the local authorities to watch these sales also and to inspect the shops of the dealers who come to them.

Special inspections are made of bakeries and restaurants. One of the things that worry the average restaurant diner is his pie. He knows that the bakeries that put out these delicacies are in the habit of using canned eggs. The division of food and inspection has found perfectly wholesome. These eggs get broken in transit and as soon as the crates are unloaded they are shelved into cans. The inspectors find that this process is in most cases conducted with considerable care. Some of the canned eggs are frozen, but there is no particular harm in that if the state of freeze doesn't continue too long. Because of recent prosecutions for using decomposed eggs in the manufacture of pies the dealers are getting more careful and the inspectors report that they find now that good eggs, either crated or canned, are in general use.

While Commissioner Lederle thinks that a great deal has been accomplished,

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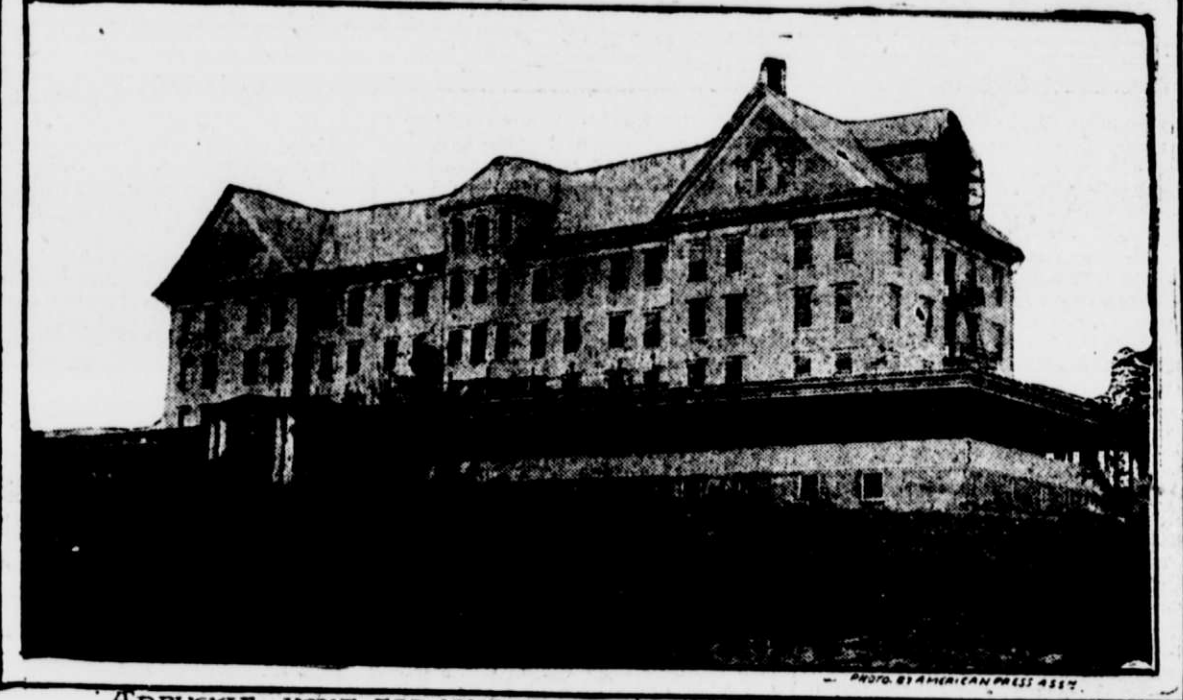
In the appended table is shown the number of inspections made during 1911, the places where bad food was discovered and the amount in pounds of the various foodstuffs condemned.

In regard to the problem of food inspection generally with only thirty inspectors to do the work, Health Commissioner Lederle says:

"The Department of Health has been struggling with a staff of food inspectors which at the present time numbers only thirty men to deal with the problem of protecting the food supply of a city which was rapidly approaching and has now attained a population of 5,000,000. It is really surprising what results have



JOHN ARBUCKLE
MR. ARBUCKLE'S FAMOUS "FLOATING HOTEL"



ARBUCKLE HOME FOR WORKING GIRLS

MILLIONS OF POUNDS OF BAD FOOD ARE SEIZED

The average New Yorker who reads occasional stories in the newspapers about raids by food inspectors may shake his head and eat his meal with some misgivings as to whether or not he is getting what he wants. It may be stated on the authority of the men who have most to do with food inspections that he is. He generally gets what he pays for, and if he chooses his eating places with care he may eat without much danger that he is indulging in something that will prove deleterious to his health.

While the average man may pick and choose his dining places there are a whole lot of folks that can't. They eat what they can get, and if they can't pay much for their food they take chances on food that is not what it ought to be. It is to protect these citizens that the division of food and inspection of the Board of Health devotes a large part of its energies. While greatly handicapped by lack of inspectors this work has proceeded until the more vicious kinds of bad foods have been eliminated, and it may be said that the total amount of bad food is not so large as might be expected in a city of the size of New York.

During the year 1911 more bad foodstuffs were condemned and destroyed than ever before. The division of food and inspection has just thirty inspectors at its disposal to cover the entire city and a glance at a statistical table of the results of their labors will convince any one that they have done well. The city is divided into inspection districts, and special attention is given to the docks and railroad terminals where food comes into town. These inspectors make their rounds as regularly as possible, but there are 5,384 wholesale establishments and 21,099 retail establishments to be visited. The results of the year's work would probably be more surprising if Commissioner Lederle had the 200 inspectors he considers necessary for a proper inspection of all these places.

These thirty men last year condemned as unfit for consumption 13,121,009 pounds of foodstuffs, the result of 392,879 inspections. The largest single item was fruit, there being 8,435,233 pounds of it that went into the offal scows. Vegetables came next with 2,567,200 pounds, then canned goods with 1,259,365 pounds. The fish shops contributed 250,547 pounds to the total of seizures, and there were 301,383 pounds of bad beef. Eggs are somewhat further down the line with 72,785 pounds.

During the last two years the policy has been adopted of prosecuting more vigorously those dealers in whose posses-

sion bad foods are found. Every second Monday in the Court of Special Sessions one can find a long list of cases on the calendar. They pay pretty good fines, too, unless they can give a very good explanation of how the goods came to be in their shops. The inspectors find a lot of dealers who were "just keeping the store for the bone man," who were "just about to throw the bad food out when the inspector came in," or who laughed when their attention was called to the condition of the food and said that "of course that particular piece of meat" or "that crate of vegetables wasn't for sale."

When an inspector finds bad food he doesn't just let the dealer that he mustn't sell it. He takes from his pocket a small bottle of methylene blue and pours it on the affected article. This produces a discoloration that will not disappear and any person who buys a foodstuff so discolored is beyond the reach of the Board of Health. Sometimes the inspectors use cresoline or kerosene, carbolic acid or chloride of lime to denature the condemned food. In the case of the ordinary retail or wholesale establishment the denatured food is taken to the offal piers and dumped into scows that will take it out to sea along with other rubbish. At the steamship docks and big railroad terminals on the waterfront the condemned food is put back on the steamer or barge from which it came and taken out to sea at the expense of the transportation company.

The inspectors say there are few cases of condemned foods being put back on

	Inspections.	Lots condemned.
Food inspection.		
Butcher shops.	22,694	486
Stores.	9,177	185
Packing houses.	4,948	92
Ice houses.	7,843	172
Stands.	15,285	654
Vessels.	226	4
Markets.	1,185	174
Railroad depots.	456	51
Stock yards.	766	791
Slaughter houses.	5,349	8,036
Commission houses.	16,312	1,603
Fat houses.	666	666
Licensed vendors.	495	2,995
Cow sales stables.	40	40
Totals	86,383	12,091

	Inspections.	Lots condemned.
Food inspection.		
Commission houses.	45,778	1,606
Roll cases.	1,199	1,199
Licensed vendors.	37,977	812
Vessels and wharves.	8,674	941
Railroad depots.	1,199	1,199
Stands.	104,162	1,931
Markets.	4,443	299
Ice houses.	2,929	35
Push carts.	144,321	10,825
Totals	302,878	38,000